

## **Remarks**

Claims 1-19 and 34 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 34 are amended.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

### **II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Dravland (U.S. Patent No. 4,906,243) in view of Imsangjan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,011,653); claims 8-13, 18, 19 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Dravland in view of Imsangjan, further in view of Otsubo et al. (U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 2002/0151864); and claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Dravland in view of Imsangjan, further in view of Good et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,843,056). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Dravland, alone or in combination with Imsangjan, does not disclose or even suggest a disposable protective undergarment in which, *inter alia*, the concave edge portion of one leg opening and the convex edge portion of another leg opening match each other along their respective lines of curvature so as to be mirror images of one another, as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 34.

The Imsangjan patent teaches away from convex and concave edges of leg opening being mirror images of one another, since the back and front edge portions of the absorbent article disclosed in that patent are both concave in shape, so that when the absorbent article is worn, the edge portions match one another along their lines of

curvature (i.e., are not mirror images of one another). Further, Dravland does not disclose a training pant that is fastened at the sides of the wearer, but instead teaches more of a T-shaped diaper-like construction that does not have a "front edge portion", let alone a front edge portion that is shaped to be a mirror image of the back edge portion when the absorbent article is worn.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 34 are in condition for allowance. The dependent claims are also in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted

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